

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 NEA-10 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02

INT-08 NIC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-10 SAJ-01 SPC-03 /109 W

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R 040845Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7167

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 4451

USIA FOR IOP, IEE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, RO

SUBJ: WORLD ENERGY CRISIS REACTION IN ROMANIA

REF: STATE 234037

1. GOR HAS RESPONDED TO WORLD ENERGY CRISIS WITH SERIES OF STEPS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP AND CONSERVE ENERGY RESOURCES OVER LONG HAUL AND TO LIMIT THEIR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION FOR THE PRESENT. STEPS INCLUDE RATIONING OF GASOLINE, REDUCING SPEED LIMITS, REGULATING FUEL OIL CONSUMPTION, AND CUTTING USE OF ELECTRICITY BY AS MUCH AS 50 PERCENT.

2. RAPID EXPANSION OF ROMANIAN INDUSTRY HAS GENERATED INCREASED DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR PETROLEUM WHILE WORLD DEMAND FOR ROMANIAN REFINED OIL PRODUCTS HAS ALSO INCREASED. IN MEANTIME, GROWTH OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION HAS BEEN QUITE SLOW, COMPELLING ROMANIA TO IMPORT LARGER AMOUNTS OF CRUDE OIL IN RECENT YEARS. WITH RECENT DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING CRUDE OIL SUPPLIES, ROMANIA HAS BEEN FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN REDUCING THE GROWTH OF ITS HIGHLY PROFITABLE SALES TO WESTERN COUNTRIES AND CUTTING HOME CONSUMPTION. WISHING TO MAINTAIN BOTH INDUSTRIAL

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GROWTH AND EXPORT SALES OF REFINED PRODUCTS, ROMANIA

HAS CHOSEN PATH OF LIMITING DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION IN
AREAS THAT WILL HAVE LEAST IMPACT ON INDUSTRIAL ENERGY
NEEDS.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO CLEARCUT ROMANIAN REACTIONS TO U.S.
POSITION. EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ENERGY
CONSERVATION STEPS BY U.S. AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.
CEAUSESCU IN HIS NOVEMBER 29 PARTY PLENUM SPEECH TOOK
LINE THAT ACUTE ENERGY CRISIS INVOLVES NOT JUST SHORT-
TERM CONJUNCTURE OF EVENTS (MIDDLE EAST WAR) BUT LONG-
TERM BASIC RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES. THUS, GOR
DOES NOT BLAME U.S. MIDDLE EAST POSITION FOR OIL SHORTAGES.
POST SUGGESTS AGENCY STRESS IN PROGRAMMING WHAT USG IS
DOING BOTH TO CONSERVE OUR ENERGY RESOURCES AND TO FIND
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES THROUGH EXPLORATION AND
RESEARCH.
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Message Attributes

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